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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



David Van Zee and Wendy Banks of Carolina Management Team

Perdue highlights small business success stories

As part of Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW initiative, the N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Center has expanded its Biz Boost program to help small businesses apply for credit, work on staffing, manage cash and reduce costs by giving small businesses access to the same kind of outside talent that big businesses often use to help them adapt and grow.

The [SBTDC's Web site](#) now features success stories and videos from small businesses around North Carolina. They include Carolina Management Team, a full-service, onsite protective coating contractor that applies high-performance industrial coatings in water and wastewater treatment facilities, and manufacturing environments, headquartered in Waynesville and Cary. [Read more.](#)

Crisco announces 4 new 21st Century Communities

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco announced Aug. 13 that four additional counties in North Carolina have been selected to participate in the 21st Century Communities Program. The program, part of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance, fosters economic growth in less prosperous counties by helping them develop innovative economic and community development plans and initiatives. Cleveland, Jones, Pamlico and Stokes counties have been selected are the new counties.

"This two-year program prepares counties to be more



Commerce holds two wind energy meetings this week

The Energy Division of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce cordially invites you to attend one of two meetings regarding coastal offshore wind energy.

A meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Aug. 20, at the Morehead City Train Depot, 1001 Arendell St., in downtown Morehead City. The meeting will include presentations by the Energy Division and the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, REgulation and Enforcement regarding the leasing of offshore waters for wind energy development and the current status of offshore wind technology. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the process for siting offshore wind facilities, to meet the federal officials who will be involved in this process, and to raise any questions regarding offshore wind energy issues.

If you are unable to attend, a similar meeting will be held on Aug. 19, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at the Albert Coates Local Government Center, 215 N. Dawson St., in Raleigh. [Learn more.](#)

competitive in today's challenging economic times," said Crisco. "Through collaboration and partnership, we are able to leverage local resources, strengthen infrastructure and support ongoing workforce and leadership development, ultimately bringing jobs and investment to these counties."

[Learn more.](#)

Crisco to speak at Lake Norman C of C

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco will speak at the [Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce](#) Aug. 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. He will discuss business issues on a statewide level. Crisco's visit is sponsored by the chamber, the Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corp. and Visit Lake Norman.



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll speaks at the ElectriCities of North Carolina annual meeting.

41 towns participate in ElectriCities of N.C. annual meeting

On Aug. 13 ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. held its 2010 annual meeting. Guest speakers included N.C. Sen. Dan Blue and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll. [See Carroll's economic development presentation.](#)

FSU opens Community Computing & Learning Center

On Aug. 16 Fayetteville State University held a grand opening for the FSU Community Computing & Learning Center at the Bronco Square Retail Plaza. The center, which includes a lab with 30 computer stations, was made possible through a competitive grant award in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program by the American Recovery and



Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton shares his vision for the NC STEM Community Collaborative at a Western North Carolina kick-off event coordinated by AdvantageWest at the High Country Council of Government in Boone. Photo by Carole R. Coates, director, High Country Workforce Development Board.

Dalton meets with WNC business leaders

Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton, chairman of the Joining Our Businesses and Schools (JOBS) Commission, spoke to community leaders from Ashe, Watauga and Caldwell counties on Aug. 13. He encouraged job creation and workforce readiness by advancing Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) education in local schools.

During his remarks in Boone at a luncheon hosted by AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, Dalton encouraged the group to work with the N.C. STEM Community Collaborative to help Northwest North Carolina communities in plan and develop changes in STEM education. N.C. STEM helps communities throughout North Carolina insure that all students are college and career ready by engaging in rigorous STEM education that provides them with more choices in life and bolsters the economic strength of their communities.

N.C. STEM, which serves as an advisor to the JOBS Commission, is already working in three communities -- Lenoir County, Davie County and the 11-county region surrounding Ft. Bragg -- to design and implement large scale innovations in their schools around STEM education. [Read more.](#)

N.C. ranked highly in Business Facilities Magazine report

Business Facilities Magazine recently released its 2010 Rankings Report. North Carolina ranked in the Top 10 in several areas, including Economic Growth Potential (No. 4), Best Business Climate (No. 6) and Biofuels Manufacturing Research (No. 6). [See the full report.](#)

Enrollment continues to climb in '12 in 6' program

Reinvestment Act of 2009. Speakers included Chancellor James Anderson, Cumberland County Commission Chair Billy King, Fayetteville Mayor Pro Tem D.J. Haire and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll.

[New computer lab opens to help train local residents](#) (News 14 Carolina, Aug. 16 - includes video)

Tour to highlight manufacturing

N.C. State University's Industrial Extension Service will conduct a statewide bus tour to recognize manufacturers, their products and especially their employees. The Industrial Extension Service recently completed a campaign to produce a billion dollars in economic value for the state. It is celebrating by focusing on the people who "make it real" for all of us, every day. For five days (Sept. 27-Oct. 1), the organization will criss-cross the state, visiting each of the seven Economic Development Partnership regions, to give manufacturers a chance to brag a little about the products they make.

North Carolina is home to some 10,000 manufacturers, from small family businesses to huge multinational corporations, and the products they make are vital to the state's economy and way of life. [Learn more.](#)

Tolson to discuss biotech at business leaders meeting

N.C. Biotechnology Center President and CEO Norris Tolson will discuss the rewards and challenges confronting the state's wide-ranging biotechnology sector at a breakfast for business leaders in Raleigh on Aug. 26. [Learn more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Center Business Counselor Victor Dau and N.C. Dept. of Commerce economic developers Martie Butler, Garrett Wyckoff, Jan Critz, Ken Allen, Bernard Torain and Jason Semple (Photo by Susan N. Pridgen)

Commerce members visit Port of Wilmington

In an effort to learn more about the advantages North Carolina

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Workforce Development continues to track the progress of Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW "12 in 6" initiative. The community colleges have been asked to provide monthly reports regarding the number of students enrolled, courses offered and the number of jobs created and maintained. The numbers through July 31 show that 14,284 students are enrolled in the program (up from 13,777 as of June 30), and 2,171 courses have been offered (up from 2,091 as of June 30).



Surfing on the Outer Banks (Photo by Bill Russ)

NYT visits Outer Banks for surfing

In the Explorer segment of its Travel section, *The New York Times* features surfing at the Outer Banks for the novice. The writer notes of the surf spots within a (long) day's drive of the big cities of the Northeast, North Carolina's Outer Banks is arguably the best for beginners. Among the expected hot spots in Hawaii and California, the Outer Banks hamlet Kill Devil Hills came in at No. 6 on a list of America's 10 best surf towns in the July 2009 issue of *Surfer* magazine.

[Digging deep and riding high \(at last\)](#) (The New York Times, Aug. 4)

Michelin plans \$11 million expansion in Stanly County

Stanly County and two of its towns will offer Michelin North America Inc. \$900,000 in incentives for the promise to add 74 jobs to the company's aircraft tire plant near Norwood.

Michelin plans to spend \$11.3 million to expand its aircraft tire retreading operation and add the jobs to the plant's work force of 320.

[Michelin plans \\$11 million expansion in Stanly County](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 13)

Tyson adds 60 jobs in Monroe

ports have to offer, several of the newest team members with the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Business and Industry Division visited the Port of Wilmington on July 22.

Jimmy Yokeley, director of distribution services and economic development for the authority, gave a presentation regarding advantages the ports offer to globally dependent companies. The group was also given a facility tour, which centered on the fact that a high and growing percentage of North Carolina's existing and expanding industries are dependent on a global supply-chain for their survival.

"Many companies outside of North Carolina who are being recruited to locate expansions to North Carolina also depend on a global supply-chain," Yokeley said. "These globally dependent industries must have access to deep-water ports and the cargo carriers who may serve their global logistics needs.

"The N.C. Dept. of Commerce and the Ports Authority work as a strong team for successful economic development to ensure North Carolina's global competitiveness. This helps companies retain and create new jobs throughout the state."

A key focus area to help growth among small businesses is to assist their expansion into global markets, which involves taking full advantage of the benefits associated with North Carolina's ports. [Learn more.](#)

N.C. remains a top gaming hub

North Carolina has maintained its ranking among the top states in the country for the video gaming industry. This state has ranked among the top six video gaming hubs for the past five years, said Dan Hewitt of the Entertainment Software Association in Washington.

According to the trade association's survey issued Aug. 10, North Carolina's gaming industry directly and indirectly employs more than 2,300 people, up from about 1,500 in 2005.

[N.C. remains at top gaming hub](#) (The News & Observer, Aug. 11)

N.C. IDEA to discuss grant process, eligibility in Web session

N.C. Innovative Development for Economic Advancement, an organization committed to supporting business innovation and economic advancement in North Carolina, will host a free Web information session to discuss its grant process and eligibility criteria on Aug. 18. The session is being held two days after the official opening of the organization's tenth grant cycle.

The session, which will take place from 11 a.m. to noon, is aimed at giving potential applicants an overview of N.C. IDEA's grant process and criteria. N.C. IDEA officials will highlight how to apply for a grant, what they look for in an application and what types of companies are eligible for funding. Interested parties can confirm their attendance by visiting [the Web site](#) and following the registration link on the homepage. [Learn more.](#)

Health-supply firm to create operations center in Union County

A \$9 million investment will lead to the creation of 60 new jobs in Monroe.

Tyson Foods, Inc., plans to invest \$9 million in new equipment and building improvements at its chicken "tray pack" facility, a Monroe Economic Development statement said.

The city council approved an economic development incentive grant that would not exceed \$171,120, according to the statement.

[Tyson adds 60 jobs in Monroe](#) (The Enquirer-Journal - Monroe, Aug. 12)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Aug. 16, 2010

New projects assigned:	281
Projects announced:	82
Jobs created:	11,144
Capital invested:	\$2.18B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	830
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	14,964

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [More Pepsi jobs? Company considers expanding its customer-service operations here](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, Aug. 16)
- [Zenta hiring zooms ahead](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 16)
- [Editorial: Tourism numbers mean good news for economy](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, Aug. 16)

Henry Schein Inc. will create a Carolinas operations center in a 10,700-square-foot section of an office-warehouse building in Indian Trail. The center will contain a showroom, technical support area and operations center for Schein's dental, veterinary and medical equipment sales.

[Health-supply firm to open an operation in Indian Trail](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, Aug. 13)

(919) 733-4151

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Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

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Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

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